THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Government and RBI closely monitor the economic developments in the country and internationally on a continuous basis, and need based measures are taken from time to time, keeping in view the financial and overall economic implications. To arrest the decline in exports, the Government/RBI announced stimulus packages including the announcements made in the Budget 2009-10 and in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2009-14 to provide support. All eligible exporters are entitled for the benefit as per the laid down criterion specified against each of the relief measures, to be extended by the concerned departments/institutions. FTP, 2009-14 with details of FTP measures and the eligibility criterion has been laid in Parliament and is also available in public domain on website *http://dgft.gov.in*.

Further need based measures would be taken, as may be required.

Extension of time to developers of SEZs

2948. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) proposals cleared by Government, till date;

(b) how many developers have asked for extension of time to execute the SEZ proposals; and

(c) the Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) In addition to seven Central Government SEZs and 12 State/Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZ Act, 2005, formal approval has been accorded to 570 proposals out of which 346 SEZs have been notified. A total of 101 SEZs have commenced export.

(b) and (c) Requests for extension of validity period beyond the initial period of three years have been received from developers citing the global economic slowdown/delay in getting requisite clearances etc., as grounds for extension. Having regard to the provisions of the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006 and the grounds cited, the Board of Approval (BOA) have permitted extension of validity of 89 SEZs beyond the initial 3 years subject to the same terms and conditions as envisaged in the original approval. Requests for extension are considered on merits.

7th Ministerial Conference of WTO at Geneva

2949. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated at the 7th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization held in Geneva recently to review the WTO's functioning titled 'The WTO, the Multilateral Trading System and the Current Global Economic Environment';